

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

-- ~~The invention relates to a~~ A method and a device for detecting the degree of pollution in an operational converter are disclosed. ~~According to the invention, the operating condition~~ An operating state of at least one of the converter components that is exposed to the ambient air is determined and a corresponding operating ~~condition~~ state of said component in an unpolluted state is determined. The two operating ~~conditions~~ states are then compared and the calculated comparison value is used as a measurement for the degree of pollution of the converter. ~~The inventive method for detecting~~ Detecting the degree of pollution of an operational converter permits a reduction ~~of~~ in the number of breakdowns ~~as a result of a non-protected operating mode~~ caused by unprotected operation of a converter, and ~~of the~~ associated disadvantages such as costs and damage to a company's image. --